

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW RACE OF THE INTERMEDIATE EGRET,
EGRETTA INTERMEDIA (WAGLER)

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The form of intermediate egret resident in the Indo-Chinese countries has until now been considered identical with *E. i. intermedia* of Java. My recent studies have shown that it is distinct, and since no name seems to be available for it, I propose that it be called

***Egretta intermedia palleuca*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 336202, adult male in full nuptial plumage, collected at Muang Chiang Rai (lat. 19°55' N., long. 99°50' E.), Chiang Rai Province, northern Siam, on January 27, 1937, by H. G. Deignan (original number 2205).

Diagnosis.—Like true *E. i. intermedia* in having the bare portion of the tibiotarsus black, but agreeing with *E. i. brachyrhyncha* (Africa) and *E. i. plumifera* (Australia) in having the bill at all seasons yellow, with the maxilla tipped horny brown.

Range.—Eastern Bengal; Assam; Burma, Siam; Indochine; south-eastern Yunnan; formerly throughout eastern and central China north to the Yangtze.

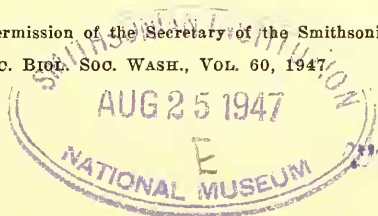
Remarks.—According to Kuroda (Birds of Java, vol. 2, 1936, p. 547), the colors of the soft parts in topotypical *intermedia* are as follows: "Bill yellow tipped with blackish brown (non-breeding bird); bill of breeding ♂ black, of ♀ black washed with yellowish, and yellow at base of bill and bare face of both sexes; exposed tibia, tarsi and toes always black (examined by KURODA)."

All specimens in nuptial dress known from Siam have the bill as described in my diagnosis. That the same is true in other parts of the Indo-Chinese Subregion may be adjudged from the following references:

"What few adults (with dorsal trains) I have seen had the bill wholly yellow, with one exception only, wherein the terminal two-thirds are black" (Blyth, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. 14, 1844, p. 118, on birds from the neighborhood of Calcutta).

"Cette aigrette, dont la taille (0^m, 70) est intermédiaire entre celle de l'*Herodias alba* et de l'*Herodias garzetta*, se distingue également de ces deux espèces par le couleur de son bec qui est jaune en toute saison, avec la pointe marquée de noir . . ." (David and Oustalet, Oiseaux de la Chine, 1877, p. 440).

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“In winter there are no plumes and the bill is yellow pointed with black. Most birds in spring appear to have the bill yellow with the black tip. Probably the bill turns black only just when the birds begin to nest” (La Touche, Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China, vol. 2, pt. 5, 1934, p. 447).

I suggest that any southeastern Chinese example with the bill black will prove to be representative of the race that breeds in Japan and occasionally appears as a winter visitor in China.

It may be doubted whether the name *intermedia* is really applicable to birds from Japan, India, and Ceylon. In regard to those of the last-named place, it is noteworthy that Legge (Birds of Ceylon, 1880, p. 1141) speaks of the tibiae as yellowish brown in the breeding season. Lack of Javanese material makes it impossible for me to discuss these populations.

No old name seems to be employable for the Indo-Chinese race. *Ardea putca*, used for Calcutta birds by Blyth (Ann. Mag. Hist., vol. 12, 1843, p. 167; *tom. cit.*, vol. 14, 1844, p. 118), might be used, had it not made its first appearance as a *nomen nudum* in synonymy with *Ardea alba* Linnaeus (Franklin, Proc. Comm. Sci. Corr. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 1, 1831, p. 124).

It might be well to mention in passing that the specimen of “*Herodias intermedia*” reported from Madagascar by Richmond (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 19, 1897, p. 680) has been examined and found to be an example of *Egretta alba melanorhynchos* (Wagler).